



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Close to 2,000,000 sportsmen are expected to hunt wild ducks and geese this year, Albert M. Day, Director of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, predicted today. This estimate is based on reports of hunting stamp sales last year.

All previous sales records were broken during the 1945-46 season when 1,725,505 hunters purchased the \$1 "duck stamp." This figure represents an increase of 238,476 over the 1944-45 season when 1,487,029 stamps were sold.

In the 1941-42 season, when war broke out, 1,439,967 stamps were sold. The following year sales dropped to 1,169,362 because of wartime restrictions, only to pick up during the 1943-44 season to 1,383,629.

In 1934, the first year these stamps were required, 635,000 were sold, Mr. Day pointed out. "In 1945, only 11 years later, nearly three times as many hunters were afield. Despite restrictions this season, the wild ducks and geese of this country may face the most devastating hunting season on record," declared Mr. Day.

He explained that the only available hunting index is provided by the sale of duck stamps which are required of all migratory waterfowl hunters over 16 years of age.

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